Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/936,064	CORRE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael I Poe	1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment filed on September 27, 2004*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-10, 12 and 13 (renumbered (1, 6-9, 2-5 and 10-12, respectively)*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *04 September 2001* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *20041202* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Authorization

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney Robin Nava on December 2, 2004.

Amendments

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been replaced by the following:

1. (Currently amended) A process for laying a cylindrical pipe in a trench (T) open at the top, starting from a section of flattened flexible tubular preform (1, 9), capable of being made round but not radially expansible by inflation due to the effect of internal pressure, [and] wherein the wall of [which] the preform (1, 9) includes a filamentary reinforcement (2) surrounding an inner sealing skin (10), characterized in that, on the one hand, this laying process is carried out without the wall of the preform (1, 9) being turned over on itself[;], and, on the other hand, the process is carried out in the following manner:

a) the section of preform (1) is brought close to the trench (T);

b) the reinforcement (2) is impregnated in situ with a curable resin (11);

c) the section of resin-impregnated preform ([1]9) still in the flattened state is deposited from the top down into the trench (T);

d) the section of preform (9) is inflated pneumatically, after having closed off the ends thereof, so as to give it a cylindrical shape;

e) the resin (11) is made to cure by heating by electrical resistance elements (21) incorporated into the reinforcement (2);

wherein operations (b) and (c) [being] are carried out continuously.

Claim 2 has been replaced by the following:

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the section of preform (9) is coated with a protective tubular sheath (12)[,] after its reinforcement (2) has been impregnated with the curable resin (11)[,] and before the preform (9) is deposited in the trench (T).

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

Line 2, -- (11) -- has been inserted after "resin".

Claim 5 has been replaced by the following:

5. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the resin (11) is cured by heating[,] by the Joule effect[, by means of electrical resistance elements (21) incorporated into the filamentary reinforcement (2)].

Claim 10 has been replaced by the following:

10. (Currently amended) A plant used to lay a cylindrical pipe in a trench (T), starting from a section of flattened flexible tubular preform (1, 9), capable of being made round but not radially expansible by inflation due to the effect of internal pressure, [and] wherein the wall of [which] the preform (1, 9) is provided with a filamentary reinforcement (2) surrounding an inner sealing skin (10), this laying operation being carried out by the plant without turning the wall of the section of preform (1, 9) over on itself, characterized in that [it] the plant comprises a mobile assembly (4-5) capable of moving along a support (S) adjacent the trench (T), and comprising[;]:

a container (4) for storing the [folded] flattened section of preform (1);

means (41) for progressively pulling said section (1) out of the container (4);

a storage tank (50) containing a curable resin (11);

means (70) for continuously and progressively impregnating the filamentary reinforcement (2) with the curable resin (11)[, this being done continuously and progressively] as [it] the section (1) is [being] extracted from the container (4);

means (8[;], 81) for continuously depositing, [still continuously, and] from the top down, the section of resin-impregnated preform (9) [prefurnished with resin] into the trench (T) [and] while still in the flattened state;

means (90-91[;], 92) for blowing compressed air into the section of preform (9) and for inflating [it] the section of preform (9), so as to give it a cylindrical shape, after it has been deposited in the trench (T); and

means (93) [to] for electrically heat [cure] curing the resin (11) via resistance heating elements (21) incorporated into the reinforcement (2).

Claim 12 has been replaced by the following:

12. (Currently amended) The plant as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that said means (93) are [electrical means,] capable of heating the resin by the Joule effect[, via resistance heating elements (21) incorporated into the reinforcement (2)].

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

Line 2, "it" has been deleted after "that" and -- the plant -- has been inserted after "that".

Examiner's Statement(s) of Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

(1) See specifically the applicant's arguments on page 4, last paragraph through page 5, 1st paragraph of the response filed on September 27, 2004. Although it is generally known to incorporate resistance heating elements for curing purposes in linings for pipes or the like as taught in Blackmore, there is no suggestion or motivation to use such a curing method in a continuous process for forming a cylindrical pipe from a flattened preform such as taught by the combination of Knowles et al., Everson et al. and Boyle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael I Poe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1207. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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